

September 2003



VALLEY LAND TRUST

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We at Aspen Valley Land Trust hope that you had a great summer and were able to spend some time enjoying the beautiful open lands in our part of the world.

Statistics:

September 1, 2003: **8,936 acres** under easement; **58 properties** between Northstar east of Aspen to the Price properties south of Silt.

Land around Aspen, Snowmass Village, Redstone, Old Snowmass and Glenwood now protected

Since our last AVLT Report, 1290 acres of spectacular land, all of it in Pitkin County, have been placed in conservation easements. Here is a brief description of each special piece:

- **Child Ranch:** The Bob Child family gave the valley a wonderful gift in the form of a conservation easement on their Capitol Creek Ranch. Pitkin County Open Space and Trails provided a financial incentive, the Western Colorado Agricultural Heritage Fund helped the family through the complicated planning process.
- **Cozy Point Ranch, Burlingame Ranch-East & Burlingame Ranch-West:** Some 188 acres of the City of Aspen's Burlingame property is now in a conservation easement, along with the 168-acre Cozy Point Ranch. Cozy Point will continue to be run as an agricultural/horse operation, preserving a part of the valley's agricultural heritage. The far pasture will be used as special event parking for the next five years, giving the city time to find alternatives. The Burlingame Ranch easement covers the property east and west of Highway 82 and excludes the area to be used for the Burlingame housing project.
- **Aspen Skiing Company's Snowmass Village lands:** Three separate parcels covering 190 acres within the town limits of Snowmass Village have been permanently conserved by the Aspen Skiing Company. The lands include Wildcat Ridges, sections adjacent Brush Creek Road and a section of Brush Creek. This donation was made possible, in part, by a donation from Aspen Alps in 1973. The Aspen Alps gave Aspen Valley Land Trust a parcel on Aspen Mountain and, in the 1980s, the Aspen Skiing Company unknowingly built a gondola tower on the property. The Snowmass Village donation was part of an agreement which allows the gondola tower to remain on Aspen Mountain.
- **Mary Wilson/Ted Eck Redstone parcel:** Mary and Ted have long been part-time Redstone residents and land conservationists. With the donation of a 2.6 –acre parcel, they have protected the entrance to Redstone from future development. The land is adjacent to the Redstone Coke Ovens land and eliminates eight building lots along Highway 133, a national Scenic Byway.
- **Springridge:** The George Greenwald family has donated a 309-acre easement along Dry Park Road between Carbondale and Glenwood Springs. The land includes about 45 acres of irrigated hay meadows, while the rest is untouched sage and grass habitat. The land borders the Faranhyll Ranch, which has a 440-acre AVLT conservation easement on it, and the sprawling Crystal River Ranch to the south. The Greenwalds are building a housing project on a separate parcel to the north.

AVLT and Western Colorado Agricultural Heritage Fund (WCAHF) will merge October 1

AVLT and WCAHF have worked together for several years and we will now merge our missions and staff to provide more efficient, comprehensive services for landowners. WCAHF provides planning, financial and legal services to large landowners, primarily ranching families, contemplating conservation. AVLT then holds and monitors the easements in perpetuity. The combined organization, operating as Aspen Valley Land Trust, will offer both the planning and easement services, making it easier for landowners to reach a conservation objective.

Colorado tax credits and AVLT brokering program mean cash for landowners

AVLT is still looking for individuals and companies who could purchase conservation easement tax credits to pay their Colorado state income taxes. Buying tax credits is the best way to support local conservation and to provide financial compensation for landowners to place conservation easements on their property. If you, or some individual or business you know, pays substantial Colorado income taxes and would like to encourage conservation at the local level, please let us know and we'll be happy to explain how it's possible to support conservation without spending money.

Thank you Mary, Auden, Jeannie, Bob and Ken!

Dedicated KJAX and KDNK fans have probably already heard the new radio spots asking listeners to support the Aspen Valley Land Trust. Many thanks to Mary Dominic, Auden Schendler, Jeannie Child, Bob Lewis and Ken Ransford for their time and talent. Each person gives a thoughtful and personal perspective on the importance of preserving open spaces for people and wildlife. We think you'll enjoy each of their stories.

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